



**Speech delivered by Mayor Zandile Gumede at KZN Youth Chefs
Graduation Ceremony held at Clermont 28 August 2017**

Programme Director,

Minister of Tourism – Hon Thokozile Xasa,

Deputy Minister – Hon Elizabeth Thabethe,

MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs –
Hon Sihle Zikalala,

Councillors present,

Government officials,

Our graduates,

Sanibonani,

We would like to take this opportunity and welcome you to this wonderful graduation ceremony. We are glad to be here to honour and celebrate with young people who have completed this program. As government we appreciate the commitment by youth who start these programmes and finish them on time. It is always discouraging when we fund students to study but instead students drop out of programme without informing us.

Food plays an important part of tourism. The main reason people visit other countries or holiday destinations is because of culture, religion, architecture, food and entertainment. Durban is known for the bunny chow which is a soft bread stuffed with curry. We need to increase the number of dishes that we market as this city. We have uJeqe and beans, our braai meat is still one of the best – I ask that we redouble our efforts in marketing our foods. Recently, Max's Lifestyle in Umlazi won the accolade from the influential Conde Nast Traveller magazine, which compiled the list with its network of chefs, food writers, and foodie tourists.

The Umlazi Durban restaurant is the best place to get braai, amazing South African–style grilled meat. Go on a Friday or Saturday night to hear local Kwaito music. I hope that by graduating today, you will go back home and start your restaurants which will be able to market some of our best African cuisine.

Programme Director,

Most of creative young South Africans, cooking is not only a hobby but a passion. For them, creating a mouth-watering dish is more than just cooking; it is a form of art. This programme seeks to create a lifetime opportunity for youth to realise their cooking passion and become qualified chefs. We want to thank the National Department of Tourism for introducing the National Youth Chefs' Training Programme in partnership with the South African Chef's Association.

This programme was set to create more than 225 000 jobs for youth in South Africa. It was also aimed at relieving the shortage of skilled chefs

with the Department of Tourism's chefs' training programme, about 800 young chefs were trained to become professional chefs.

In conclusion,

I would like to congratulate you and wish you success in all your endeavours. Some of you will be looking for jobs and business opportunities and others will study further. I wish you all the best and God bless.

With those few words, you are welcome.